

# SUMMER 2016 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine







*Dr. Jim Henderson  
1994  
President  
Northwestern State  
University*

My fellow alumni,

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we find ourselves in a constant state of transition. Individuals, companies and certainly universities cannot operate in the same manner they did 10 year ago, or even five years ago. We must continually adapt to changes in technology, changes in the job market and changes in consumer expectations, all of which create opportunities for growth.

A few weeks ago, more than 910 graduates walked across a stage in Prather Coliseum. The diploma each received testifies to his or her preparedness for success in this era of rapid change. Many of those outstanding graduates overcame many obstacles – health issues, financial circumstances, life-changing crises—on the path to earning their degrees. It is inspiring to talk with and congratulate these individuals who never gave up in pursuing a better quality of life through education. There is no surer way to solve our chronic financial crisis, improve our business climate, enrich our communities or develop our citizenry than through higher education.

As we prepare to welcome the Class of 2020 to campus, our focus at Northwestern State remains growth, retention and student success. Rising costs, the continued disinvestment in higher education by the state and uncertainty with TOPS have created headwinds, to be sure, but we are more committed than ever before to delivering quality academics in an unparalleled environment of student experience. I could not be more optimistic about what these incoming students will learn and accomplish during their years at Northwestern State.



*Drake Owens  
2004, 2005  
Assistant Vice  
President of External  
Affairs for University  
Advancement*

Dear alumni,

Once again, Northwestern State concluded with 2015-16 academic year with a celebration of our graduates, old and young. I believe this past May's commencement was the most well-attended and enthusiastic on record, not only with the Class of 2016, but also those Golden Jubilee alumni who returned for their second diplomas. A standing room only crowd welcomed Gov. Jon Bel Edwards for morning commencement and Dr. James L. Holly for the afternoon ceremony. In the interim, Sen. Gerald and Mrs. Rose Long made an exciting announcement during the 50-year luncheon. You can read more about that on Page 8.

In this issue of Alumni Columns, you can also read about an opportunity to reach out to peers in your career field through demoNSUUnite.net. This network is a career advancement tool for Northwestern State graduates that provides an opportunity for established professionals to mentor new graduates. I hope you will embrace this new platform as one way in which Northwestern State is using technology to expand the professional network of all our graduates and fostering a culture of engagement and giving back.

As I write this, we are already making plans for Homecoming 2016. Many exciting activities and a few surprises are in the works, so if you have not visited campus recently, consider this a personal invitation to visit and find out what's new and what's happening at your alma mater.

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## Spring grads collect diplomas amid confetti, music and cheers



A capacity crowd in Prather Coliseum joined the celebration as degrees were conferred to 910 graduates.



Dr. James Larry Holly, a 1965 Northwestern State alum, addressed graduates during afternoon commencement ceremonies, urging listeners to make a life rather than a living, to pay it forward by helping others and congratulating them on becoming fellow NSU alumni.



Louisiana Governor Jon Bel Edwards congratulated graduates and assisted in conferring diplomas following his commencement address during morning ceremonies.

**Dr. James Knecht** of Natchitoches, who has for three decades served as physician to NSU athletic teams, was recognized with an honorary doctorate of humane letters. In addition to spending countless hours at athletic events in Natchitoches and numerous other sites and in treating injuries, conducting physical examinations and providing medical assistance to Northwestern State student-athletes, Knecht has also supervised internship and practicum experience programs for students at Northwestern who were working toward degrees in allied health fields and has been a mentor for dozens of high school and college students interested in careers in the medical profession.







*The third annual President's Command Performance showcased the talents of Northwestern State University's School of Creative and Performing Arts with special selections to honor each inductee of the School's Hall of Fame. The show included a variety of performances by the NSU Wind Symphony, faculty vocalists and the NSU Dance Company, who presented a variety of dance genres.*

## Annual spring gala celebrates artistic accomplishments

Northwestern State University honored three individuals for their lifelong contributions to the arts with induction into the Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice Estelle Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame. Induction was held in tandem with the third annual President's Command Performance, a spring gala to celebrate the arts and showcase the talents of students and faculty in the School of Creative and Performing Arts.

Dr. Colleen Lancaster, Dr. Jerry Payne and Mrs. Lenn Dohmann Prince were selected for induction into the CAPA Hall of Fame based on their lifetime achievements and contributions to the life of the arts at NSU, Natchitoches, the region, the state, nationally and internationally.

The spring gala began with a cocktail party that included a champagne toast, an art exhibit, a silent auction and entertainment provided by the NSU Jazz Orchestra in Orville Hanchey Gallery. The celebration moved to A.A. Fredericks Fine Arts Auditorium for signature performances that complemented the work of each honoree.

Lancaster was a teacher and administrator for more than 30 years in NSU's women's physical education program where she directed the department's multiple areas of dance, including ballet, folk and square, tap, ballroom and contemporary while working to establish accreditation for the Department of Dance. She was the coordinator of the very first aerobic dance program in north Louisiana. In 1979, she became the first chair of the NSU Department of Dance,



*Mrs. Lenn Dohmann Prince, a renowned vocalist, was honored as the Northwestern State University Wind Symphony and faculty vocalists performed selections during her induction into the School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame. She was congratulated by Dr. Greg Handel, director of the School and a host of the event.*

formulating within the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Creative and Performing Arts, separating from the Department of Physical Education and Recreation.

Lancaster, a native of Mississippi, arrived in Natchitoches in 1946 as a junior majoring in physical education at Northwestern State. After graduation, she earned a master's degree at Texas Women's University and a Ph.D. from Indiana University, where she was an instructor, before returning to NSU. As a nationally recognized dance educator, Lancaster worked closely with local, state, and national programs and organizations. She helped organize the Louisiana Dance Symposium and directed NSU's Christmas Dance Concert, which evolved into the enormously popular Christmas Gala.

After 30 years of teaching, Lancaster retired to New York City for 10 years where she was recreation director at a nursing home. She returned to Natchitoches in 1997 and is active in genealogy and volunteerism for the city and Natchitoches First Presbyterian Church, for which she

was named a Natchitoches Treasure.

Payne is a resident of Marshall, Texas, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music education at NSU in 1957 and 1968, specialist in education in 1969 and doctorate in music education in 1973. In a career spanning 45 years, he was a music educator for 20 years in Louisiana and 25 years in Texas, including four years as Director of Bands at NSU. During that time, Payne led his bands in numerous



outstanding competitive performances and was recognized with several professional honors.

Payne attended NSU on a band scholarship and became the student leader for the popular Demonaires. During his undergrad years, he played a critical role in helping charter the Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, serving in numerous leadership roles, including a term as president in 1957. He began his teaching and band director career at Alexandria Junior High School and Alexandria Senior High. After receiving his doctoral degree, Payne finished his final four years in Louisiana as director of bands at Northwestern State University, his alma mater. He then retired in Louisiana and moved to Marshall, Texas, hoping to rebuild the struggling band program there. Under his leadership, the program grew in size and quality and earned numerous UIL Sweepstakes awards. Fourteen years after his Alexandria Band was the Louisiana Honor Band at Four States, his Marshall Band was selected as the Texas Honor Band.

Payne has served as a guest conductor and clinician for numerous honor bands in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas and has been a clinician and judge for festivals and contests in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Tennessee. He is active in Phi Beta Mu, TBA, TMEA, TMAA, and is a Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary International. He is a semi-professional jazz and concert saxophonist, is active as an arranger of band and jazz ensemble music, and performs with the East Texas Baptist University Saxophone Quartet. Payne performed a solo saxophone concert at the Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi's 50th anniversary in 2006. He is a member of the NSU Band Directors' Hall of Fame, the Louisiana Music Educators Hall of Fame, the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame and NSU's Hall of Distinguished Educators.

Payne and his wife, the former Marilyn Pippin, have five children and 14 grandchildren.

Prince is a native of Opelousas who began studies at Northwestern State in 1972, where she was a member of the

NSU Chorale and played French horn in the NSU Orchestra. She was a member of Delta Zeta Sorority and represented NSU in the 1974 Miss Louisiana Pageant as the Lady of the Bracelet. She graduated in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in vocal performance education and later earned a master's degree in vocal performance from the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

While living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Prince continued to continue her vocal studies with teacher and pedagogue Jane Snow, performing in many vocal ensembles in Albuquerque and Santa Fe and with the Southwest Opera Chorus in Albuquerque. While working towards her master's degree, Prince was awarded a scholarship from the University of Miami to study in Salzburg, Austria, during the Salzburg Opera Festival where she studied and was coached by numerous world renowned opera performers and teachers. Some of her solo performances included the leading role of Sonia in Franz Lehar's "Merry Widow" and Laetitia in Menotti's "The Old Maid and the Thief."

After moving to Ruston in 1992, Prince was host for many years to Northwestern State's north-central Louisiana recruiting reception in her home. She was also a member of the Ruston Masterworks Chorus and the soprano soloist for many performances, including the Mozart's "Requiem," Vivaldi's "Gloria," Handel's "Messiah," Duke Ellington's "Sacred Concert" and the Monroe Symphony Orchestra's performance of Haydn's "Creation."

Prince and her husband Danny have four children and 11 grandchildren. They own and operate several businesses in several states, including nursing and rehabilitation centers, pharmacies and therapy companies, as well as Port au Prince restaurant on Lake Claiborne and Port au Prince Cross Lake. They are active in the NSU Foundation, supporting professorships in voice and music, as well as the renovation of the CAPA music library.

The next President's Command Performance will take place in the spring of 2018 and will honor individuals with inclusion in the School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame.



*Dr. Colleen Lancaster, who was instrumental in organizing Northwestern State University's Department of Dance and the school's early incarnation of the popular Christmas Gala, was inducted in the School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame. In her honor, the NSU Dance Company performed several special selections choreographed and/or restaged by NSU dance faculty. She is shown receiving the honor with Dr. Vickie Parrish, professor of theatre, and Dr. Jeff Mathews, associate professor of music, director of bands and event host.*



*Dr. Jerry Payne, left, was congratulated on his induction to the Northwestern State University School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame by long-time colleague and friend Dr. Karl Carpenter and Dr. Greg Handel, CAPA director. Payne, an NSU alum who is a legend in band and music education circles in Louisiana and Texas, had a career that spanned 45 years, including four years as director of bands at NSU.*



# Spotlights

**Dr. Judith Covington** (1985), a math professor at Louisiana State University-Shreveport, was elected governor of the Mathematical Association of America this past spring.

Each MAA governor serves a three-year term and the section represents Louisiana and Mississippi.

"As a governor, I will serve on the board of governors and we oversee the activities of the national organization," Covington said. "The board meets one day before the January and August meetings to discuss current business and to approve the decisions of the many MAA committees. I am also responsible for keeping open lines of communication between the section and the national organization. I will also be appointed to serve on at least one committee."

Covington served as an at-large governor for teacher education from 2009 to 2012. These are governor positions that are elected by the Board of Governors to represent certain groups in the organization.

"It is an honor to have been selected," she said. "I am proud to have been chosen by the MAA members in our section to represent them at the national level. One of the invited speakers to our section meeting mentioned that we are the friendliest section, and it is my goal to make sure this remains constant."

Covington has been teaching at LSUS for 23 years. Last year, she was awarded the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award from the MAA. That award honors college or university teachers whose have been recognized for their success, effectiveness and last influence in teaching beyond their own institutions.

Rapides Parish educator **Russell Ballard** (2013) was named KALB-TV and Hixson Autoplex's Golden Apple teacher.

For the last three years, students have nominated outstanding teachers that go above and beyond in the classroom to be "Golden Apple" winners. Those teachers are then instructed to write essays explaining why they are deserving of the title and one teacher is ultimately chosen to drive away in a new car from Hixson.

Russell Ballard, is a social studies teacher at R.A.P.P.S., Rapides Positive Program for Students, an expulsion site for the parish.

"There are no words to explain what I'm feeling right now," said Ballard, moments after finding out he would drive away in a new Ford Focus. "We don't do what we do for recognition or awards, but it helps. It makes us feel like what we do is seen."



*Crystal Pierce, center, received the LAE Image Award.*

Natchitoches Parish educator **Crystal Louviere Pierce** was named recipient of the Teacher Image Award presented by the Louisiana Association of Educators. The Image Award is presented annually to a teacher whose leadership and actions in their professions have advanced public education in Louisiana. Pierce will be recommended to the National Education Association for the NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence.

"We couldn't be more proud of Crystal and her professional accomplishments," said Debbie Meaux, LAE president. "She is a model teacher and a true asset, not just to the association, but to her school, her district and her students."

Pierce graduated from Northwestern State in 1997 and has been an educator at Fairview-Alpha Elementary since then, currently teaching Pre-K. She will represent Louisiana in Washington, D.C., in February and will have the opportunity to teach abroad in 2017.

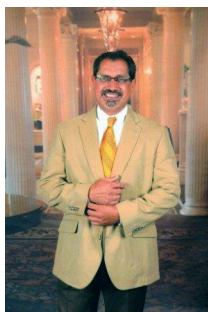
Pierce says she is a firm believer that self-worth and confidence at the early age lay the foundation for becoming a productive adult.

"I encourage my students to trust in themselves. They guide my instruction and knowing this causes them to take ownership over their work," Pierce said. "There is a greater reward than when a child tells me they are glad that I'm their teacher."

**Frank Jabbia** (1994), was named one of St. Tammany Parish's Principals of the Year in the high school category.

Since 2013, Jabbia has been the principal of Northshore High where he previously served as assistant principal and administrative assistant. He received his bachelor's degree in physical education and health from Northwestern State and his master of education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi.





## Chicola leading Alumni Association

**Monty Chicola** of Alexandria is currently serving as president of the Northwestern State University Alumni Association. Chicola is founder of Real Vision Software, a company that devel-

ops image processing software to be sold as an IBM product and co-develops hardware projects with IBM Rochester.

Chicola graduated from Holy Savior Menard High School in 1975 and earned a degree in computer science and business administration from NSU in 1980. On campus, he served as president of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and was a member of the band. He began his professional career as a programmer with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana and worked as a programmer and IT manager with two other companies in central Louisiana before founding Real Vision Software.

Chicola's family includes daughter Kimberly, who lives in Rochester, Minnesota, with her husband Daniel Noel and son Collin; daughter Lindsey who just began work at Real Vision Software and girlfriend McKenzie Lewis and her daughter Hunter Lewis.

As a licensed pilot, he enjoys flying his airplane and traveling.

## Sands pens second novel

Writer **Susan Noel Sands** has released a new book, "Love, Alabama," the follow-up to her successful debut novel "Again, Alabama." Susan graduated from NSU in 1989 with a B.S. in elementary education. She met her husband, Doug Sands, who graduated with a physical education degree in 1989, also at NSU, the year "Steel Magnolias" was filmed in Natchitoches. Doug graduated from the LSU School of Dentistry in 1993.

Susan's lifelong love of reading, and growing up in the small town of Negreet fed her desire to try her hand at writing small town Southern fiction. "Again, Alabama," was released last June by the Tule Publishing Group. "Love, Alabama," has received fantastic reviews thus far, and is now available both in digital and print formats at all major online distributors and some bookstores.

Susan lives in Johns Creek, Georgia, with her husband, Doug, and her teen daughter and son. She has a son headed to college in the fall, and one who is an employed graduate of the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business.



## Dr. Randolph Hayes, veterinarian to champions

Equine veterinarian and NSU graduate **Dr. Randolph Hayes** has been celebrating big wins by his patients, who happen to be some of the most famous competitors in the country.

Hayes is one of the top-ranked racing equine physicians in the U.S. and a managing partner of Equine Medicine and Surgery based in Bossier City, which cares for some of the top horses in the racing world.

Hayes is racetrack vet for Nyquist, winner of this year's Kentucky Derby on May 9, as well as Exaggerator, who earned a win over Nyquist in his fifth try at the Preakness May 21. Another famous patient is American Pharoah, the 2015 Triple Crown winner.

Hayes entertained some special guests at this year's Derby, including his father, Mike Hayes and Dr. Austin Temple, retired dean of the former College of Science and Technology, both of Natchitoches.

The Natchitoches native graduated from Northwestern State in 1990. At NSU, Hayes was captain of the football team, a four-year letterman, all-conference player and a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He graduated from Louisiana's State University's School of Veterinary Medicine in 1996.

Hayes travels from track to track, spending winters in New Orleans, the spring season at Churchill Downs and late summer at Saratoga Springs Racecourse in New York. He has also worked at Louisiana Downs in Bossier City, Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie, Texas, and Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Arkansas.



*From left are veterinarian Dr. Mark Barry, Mike Hayes, Temple and Dr. Randolph Hayes. The above photo shows the Derby competitors lining up for post time.*



## Network, mentor, jobseek and more at demoNSUnite.net

Northwestern State University alumni can connect online to find jobs, internships, partnerships and other opportunities through demoNSUnite.net, an alumni networking platform launched by the university's Office of Alumni and Development.

"This platform will revolutionize the way we connect with each other and give us the option to build a mentorship and internship network," said Vanner Erikson, associate director of Alumni Affairs.

"It's important because this platform will help new graduates connect with other alumni who are established in their careers and interested in mentoring new professionals," added Kimberly Galloway, assistant director of Alumni Affairs.

demoNSUnite.net can help graduating students make introductions to alumni in their field to encourage career advancement and other opportunities. Users can post job and event listings, ask questions, browse photos albums and more.

Alumni can register for the site using LinkedIn or Facebook so their network displays the most up to date personal and professional information. Network expansion tools enable users to find others and reconnect. The platform also features the latest news identifying alumni working in top companies and exclusive jobs.



Kevin McCotter, president of McCotter Public Strategies, joined the network and said the platform is easy to navigate and provides the tools necessary for users whether they are looking for their first job or seeking advice on an entrepreneurial venture.

"Talent availability is the primary component of a job-creating investment decision. The site not only provides a robust social media engagement of alumni and other Northwestern stakeholders, it provides assistance for each stage of your professional life," McCotter said. "In today's changing employment landscape, career services must be nimble and leverage technology. The demoNSUnite platform is part of Northwestern's value proposition through alignment with tomorrow's workforce demands and preparing graduates to work, learn and lead."

To join the demoNSUnite, visit [demoNSUnite.net](http://demoNSUnite.net).



*2001 NSU graduate Marc LeBato and his daughter Bailey, who graduated May 6, earned the same award from the Department of Health and Human Performance 15 years apart. The graduating senior named Outstanding Health and Physical Education Major is selected based on academics and for service as a role model for his or her peers in the department.*

## Father, daughter win HHP award 15 years apart

Bailey LeBato of Leesville earned a special recognition from Northwestern State University's Department of Health and Human Performance. The graduating senior was named Outstanding Health and Physical Education Major in May, an honor given to a student who exhibits excellence through academics and serves as a role model for his or her peers in the department. The honor was made all the more special because LeBato's father, Marc LeBato, received the same award 15 years ago.

When Bailey sent the news to her father that she won the award, he responded with a picture of his plaque for the same recognition in 2001.

"As if the award itself was not special enough, knowing I had made this impression on my professors for them to think I was deserving, the fact my dad also received the same was that much more special," she said.

Marc LeBato teaches elementary physical education in Vernon Parish, where Bailey plans to teach and coach next year. She graduated May 6 with a 4.0 grade point average.

"The degree of HHP has deep roots in our family," Bailey said. "My dad's mother and grandfather were both teacher and coaches, making my dad and I third and fourth generation educators." Marc LeBato has taught kindergarten through sixth grade physical education for 14 years.

"I guess you could say it's in my blood," Bailey said. "Growing up, I rode with my dad to school every day, turned on the gym lights, rode the bus to fifth and sixth grade basketball games and always had endless toys to play with (PE equipment)."

Bailey credits her father for his example of perseverance and determination.

*Continued on page 7*





## Kappa Sigmas celebrate chapter's 50th anniversary



More than 500 alumni and friends attended the 50-year celebration of Northwestern State's Theta Mu chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity April 8, 9, and 10. The event included decade parties at local restaurants, a crawfish boil and Saturday evening cocktail party and a nostalgic luau party.



Brett Stephenson, Luke Lucky, Matt Westerfield and Chance Carter



Randy Bonnette, Matt Cottrell, Darrell Scurlock and Gary McElwee



Tom Baron, Lee Posey, Jim Villard and Andy McGlathery

### LeBato—continued from page 6

"We have pictures at home that remind him of his time at Northwestern," she said. "These pictures include one of him studying with me as a baby lying on his chest and one of him and [HHP Professor] Dr. Bill Dickens that I myself took of them. These pictures motivated me to continue my education even in times when I wanted to give up. I even assisted my dad with a project as a five-year-old that I got my brother to help me with last spring. Same project, different class."

Bailey's mother, Kelli LeBato, is also a graduate of NSU, having earned her degree in education in 2008.

"Receiving this award was so humbling as [Department Head] Dr. John Dollar gave such kind words during the ceremony. Visiting with the dean of the college, Dr. Vickie Gentry, and Dr. Dickens, who had also taught dad, was such a neat experience. Sharing this night with my dad will be something I will always remember. NSU is a home away from home, with the best educators who focus not only on their students' education, but also on forming professional relationships and friendships."



## Horton named LSMSA director

Dr. Steve Horton (1988) was selected as director of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts earlier this year. Horton previously served Northwestern State University as the vice provost, dean of the Graduate School, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and as a tenured professor of education.

"We could not be more grateful for Steve's service to Northwestern State, and we look forward to working with him in furthering the strong partnership between LSMSA and NSU," said Dr. Jim Henderson, NSU president.

Horton's work at NSU began in 1990 as a professor of journalism, but throughout his years at the university, he served in significant academic, administrative and leadership roles.

Horton is the school's seventh executive director in its 32-year history.



## Longs pledge unused campaign funds to support academics



**Senator Gerald and Mrs. Rose Long celebrated his Northwestern State University Golden Jubilee and their golden wedding anniversary by announcing a \$600,000 gift to the NSU Foundation that will support an Academic Success Center at their alma mater, scholarships and professorships. Sen. and Mrs. Long pledged \$480,000 of his remaining campaign funds with an initial gift of \$100,000 to the Foundation. The total gift includes anticipated matches from the Board of Regents Support Fund.**

"The surplus of our campaign funds can be donated to a qualified 501C institution, in this case, Northwestern State University," Long said. "As we exhaust these campaign funds, we are committed to the fulfill the full amount."

Long is serving his third term in the Louisiana Senate. After winning his seat without opposition in 2015 his colleagues elected him president pro tempore. He serves District 31, which includes Grant and Natchitoches parishes and parts of Rapides, Red River, Sabine and Winn parishes. His third term in office will end in 2020. Sen. and Mrs. Long, the former Rose Landry, married in 1966. Mrs. Long earned her degree at Northwestern in 1968.

The Longs have been long-time supporters of Northwestern State. In 1991, on the occasion of their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, the Longs created the Gerald and Rose Long Scholarship, the first-ever \$10,000 endowed scholarship established at Northwestern State. They established the Janet Goodwin Scholarship in 2000, the Long Twins Scholarship in 2005 and the Long Purple Line Endowed Scholarship in 2015. Sen. and Mrs. Long have three adult children, two that are also Northwestern State alumni. They have nine grandsons and one granddaughter they hope to see attend and graduate from Northwestern State as well.

"Regardless of how much we give to Northwestern State University, we can never give back the same that we received," Long said.

"Northwestern State University could not ask for greater friends in Baton Rouge or here at home than Sen. and Mrs. Long," said NSU President Dr. Jim Henderson. "We are grateful for his support in the legislature and for his and the Long family's decades-long support to our institution."

The bulk of the Long's gift will fund the design and maintenance of a new Academic Success Center in Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library. Remaining funds will support an endowed scholarship for a graduate student, an endowed scholarship for a first-generation student and endowed professorships to help recruit and retain superior faculty.

The Academic Success Center project includes renovations and cosmetic upgrades to more than 10,600 square feet of the first floor of Watson Library with



*Sen. Gerald and Mrs. Rose Long announced a contribution to the NSU Foundation in the amount of \$600,000.*

offices for academic advising services and a state of the art computer lab. The Center will also include nine new group study rooms, a new tutoring room and upgrades to three existing rooms for tutoring, upgrades to two offices and a conference room, a 3,000-square-foot open study hall and a dedicated space for computer workstations.

"The design of the Academic Success Center is intended to be welcoming to students while infusing the space with a sense of liveliness and academic energy," said Drake Owens, assistant vice president for External Affairs and executive director of the NSU Foundation. "The space is meant to recognize that students study and learn in a variety of ways, so the center will incorporate a number of study environments to engage students."

The center will provide support for Natchitoches-based students as well as students at satellite campuses and online learners with tutoring, development workshops for all types of students to help them with success in college and in their careers. Personnel at the center will work with deans

*Continued on page 9*



## La Vida Mocha: Café DeMon is NSU's newest hot spot

Northwestern State University's long-awaited café opened on campus in April to great enthusiasm from the university community. Café DeMon, which is operated by Sodexo and sells Starbucks products, is located on the first floor of Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library and has drawn a dramatic increase in foot traffic to the building. Café DeMon is open from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. weekdays and 7 a.m.-2 p.m. on weekends. Hours are subject to change. Steve Kauf, Sodexo general manager, said response was overwhelming. "We had been told we had enough product for over a week and we ran out of some things in the first day of our unannounced opening," Kauf said. Café DeMon is open to students and the general public.



**Longs**—continued from page 8

and other administrative offices on campuses to provide services and resources for students, Owens said.

The graduate student endowed scholarship will provide support for a graduate or first-professional student or post-doctoral fellow to benefit the student in the form of scholarships, fellowships or experiential opportunities such as internships, externships, conference travel and field work. The first generation endowed scholarship will be used to support a student who is the first in their family to attend college.

The endowed professorship will provide for the university to recruit and retain faculty whose research, teaching and/or public service contribute to their department and the institution. The endowed professorship is a distinction award by the university to a scholar in recognition of past and potential original contributions to their academic discipline and provides funding for teaching, research and service responsibilities.

"These funds will enable Northwestern State to continue our mission of putting students first," Owens said. "The Academic Success Center, the scholarships and professorship help us give our graduates competitive advantages over their peers in their pursuit of education and career success."

## Argus at 40: The writers are different but themes remain the same

The 40th edition of Argus, Northwestern State's literary magazine was introduced during a celebration that included recognition of past advisors and readings from this year's winning entries. Argus highlights the creativity of students through poetry, prose, fine art and photography.

Editor Maggie Harris noted that reading Argus editions through the decades revealed striking commonalities among the contributors.

"Coping with loss, the whirlwind of love, finding oneself -- these are the themes that connect our generations. They can be found in every issue of Argus. Argus reflects the diversity in perception that simultaneously connects us and makes us unique," Harris said.

Searchable editions of Argus are archived online at [traditions.nsula.edu](http://traditions.nsula.edu).



*Congratulations to Argus Design Editor Jessica Cross, Advisor Dr. Julie Kane and Editor Maggie Harris on producing an outstanding 40th edition of NSU's literary magazine. Kane, a former Louisiana Poet Laureate, will retire this year. Harris will return as editor of the 2017 edition.*





## Fishing scholarship, tournament celebrate life of NSU angler

A Natchitoches Central High School student with a passion for fishing will benefit from a scholarship established to honor the memory of a Northwestern State University student whose tragic death left a void in the university's fishing team and its close-knit members.

The Dylan Kyle Poche Memorial Fishing Scholarship will be presented each spring to a graduating member of the NCHS Fishing Team who plans to be a member of the NSU Fishing Team. If no eligible students apply, the funds will go to support the NSU Fishing Team and their activities. The scholarship was established by Poche's parents, Burt and Shelley Poche and Misty Ott.

**"Dylan had such a passion for fishing and we want the scholarship to go to someone who has that passion."**

—Shelley Poche

"It takes a lot for a kid to attend college, keep up with their classes and stay involved in extracurricular activities. We also hope this will benefit a student with a financial need."

Poche, 18, was a 2015 graduate of Natchitoches Central High School, and an avid outdoorsman. He excelled at tournament fishing and was a member of the NCHS Fishing Team and, as a freshmen at Northwestern State, the NSU Fishing Team. He passed away Jan. 31.

"Dylan never met a stranger and was always willing to help out his fellow teammates," Burt Poche said. "He was such a kind hearted person who was very easy to get along with, and all his teammates loved him. Dylan had many goals with fishing being a major priority. Through this fishing scholarship we are hoping to help others achieve their dreams."

Juddy Hamous is sponsor of the NSU Fishing Team and a friend of the Poche family. Dylan Poche was his son's best friend as well as fishing teammate.



*The Poche family celebrated the success of the first Dylan Poche Memorial Bass Tournament. From left are Misty Michelle Ott, Brady Poche, Kaleb Poche, Nick Wiggins, Burt Poche, Brenton Lester, Shelley Poche and Juddy Hamous.*

"I hope kids understand what this scholarship means," said Hamous, whose son fished with Dylan in high school and at NSU. "It's a great opportunity for kids to have assistance."

In May, the first annual Dylan Poche Memorial Bass Tournament took place on Toledo Bend with 82 boats participating and a strong show of support from friends.

"We are so very thankful for all the people who fished the tournament, the sponsors and everyone who helped make the tournament a success," Shelley Poche said.

To contribute to the scholarship, contact Jill Bankston, associate director of Development at NSU, at (318) 357-4414 or email [bankstonj@nsula.edu](mailto:bankstonj@nsula.edu).



*The parents of Dylan Poche, an NSU student and member of the university's fishing team, honored his memory with a scholarship in his name, to be presented to a Natchitoches Central High School graduate with the same passion for fishing. From left are Erin Dupree, Brittany McConathy and Jill Bankston representing NSU's Office of Alumni and Development, Burt and Shelley Poche, Drake Owens and Tiffany Chasteen of NSU Alumni and Development and Juddy Hamous, sponsor of the NSU Fishing Team. Not shown is Poche's mother, Misty Ott.*



## Ability, not disability, defines one determined new teacher

McKenzi Gordano of Bossier City is an inspiring example of an individual overcoming adversity to realize their dreams. Gordano has spent her college career battling multiple sclerosis while pushing herself to achieve her goal of becoming a teacher. For her dedication she was awarded the Dill Family Perseverance Award in Education, annually presented to a student pursuing a degree through Northwestern State University's Gallaspy Family College of Education and Human Development.

"My advice for anyone out there with a disability such as mine is know that your ABILITY is stronger than your DISability," said Gordano, who graduated in May summa cum laude.

Gordano knew by age 5 that she wanted to be a teacher.

"I knew that teaching was meant for me. Northwestern was the only school that I had applied to because I knew that they had the best education department," she said. "I expected to be challenged, but what I didn't expect was to get sick my freshman year. My very first week of college, I had to go home and ended up in the hospital. A couple painful tests later, it was revealed to me that I had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis."

Multiple sclerosis is a disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain and between the brain and body. Gordano has bruises on her brain that can be seen via MRI. The bruises can trigger a flare-up and have done so many times during her college career, with results that are often very differ-

ent. Sometimes her vision is affected; sometimes she can't remember how to complete simple tasks like holding a fork.

"When I was first diagnosed, my first thought was, 'My college career is over. I am never going to be able to be a teacher,'" Gordano said. "I fell into a deep depression my first semester. I had even, at one point, considered dropping out of school. Then, a miracle happened: I found a friend. She was also an education major and we quickly became best friends. She encouraged me every step of the way to keep going and I am stronger than MS."

Her friend was correct.

"I am stronger than MS. If anything, MS was probably the best thing to ever happen to me. I've pushed my limits and discovered that I can do anything that I set my mind to," Gordano said.

To manage, she has adjusted her ways in the classroom. If she is going through a flare where she cannot feel her writing hand, she lets her students go up to the board and write for her. If her legs are not working, she sits on top of a desk and lets the students go to her for help.

"Every day is different and every day is a learning experience. I never let the MS show," said Gordano, whose cooperating teachers didn't learn about her condition until weeks after they had been working together. "I don't complain about it. MS isn't an excuse to get out of doing things, it is my drive for working harder at every-



*McKenzie Gordano is this year's recipient of the Dill Family Perseverance Award, presented to an NSU student who has overcome hardship to fulfill their goal of becoming a teacher. She is pictured with Dr. Kimberly McAlister, left, head of the Department of Teaching, Leadership and Counseling, and Dr. Vickie Gentry, dean of the Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development.*

thing. Without being diagnosed with MS, I would have never found out how truly strong of a person I am and how strong of a teacher I could be."

Gordano said MS had made her work harder and her determination to succeed in the classroom has tripled.

"I wanted to be a good teacher - not anymore. I AM going to be a great teacher," she said. "Even when my legs are paralyzed and I have to be in a wheelchair. You can bet your bottom that my wheelchair will be decked out in hot pink glitter and my teacher pouch will be around it so I can easily access my pens, pencils, stickers and even some candy to bribe my students with to do well. I will be ready for that day and until that day comes, I will keep on keeping on."

*Continued on page 16*



### Lion's Club supports Natchitoches students

The Natchitoches Lion's Club presented scholarships to graduating high school seniors who plan to attend Northwestern State University. Warner Lee of St. Mary's High School, president of the Leo Club, will attend NSU and major in nursing. Christopher Gistarb of Natchitoches Central will attend NSU to major in electronic engineering and psychology. From left are Jill Bankston, NSU's associate director of development; Lee, Lion's President Brandon McKee, Gistarb and his mother Valerie McCoy.





*Four Northwestern State Lady Demon basketball players were able to attend the May 10 introduction of their new head coach, Jordan Dupuy and his family. From left are Tia Youngblood, Cheyenne Brown, Elizabeth Dupuy, Jordan Dupuy, Gabby Jackson and Sami Thomas. In the foreground are Alex and Madison Dupuy.*

## Dupuy emphasizes family in leadership of women's basketball

Family was at the heart of what Jordan Dupuy's professional references often said when asked about the 36-year-old.

Upon pulling on a Northwestern State cap and taking the podium at the May 10 news conference introducing him as the sixth coach in Lady Demons basketball history, Dupuy wasted no time acknowledging his flesh and blood as anchors in his life.

"We mentioned throughout the process how important family is," Dupuy said. "So, first and foremost, I have to thank my family. Everyone knows how difficult it is to be a coach, but the more difficult job is to be the spouse of a coach. They go through everything we go through, but they can't control the outcome. My wife (Elizabeth) has been by my side from when I was washing jocks as a (men's basketball) manager all the way until today. It's been a long journey. It's been a blessed journey."

"(Daughter) Madison and (son) Alex, thank you for everything y'all have done for Daddy. There's no better feeling than waking up in the morning knowing those two are proud of you, and today, they're very proud of their dad."

Dupuy even joked his mother and father set him on a course that landed him in Natchitoches as the sixth coach in the 42-year history of the Lady Demons program.

It was an early nickname, Dupuy said, his mother and father – Baton Rouge residents who were in attendance, along with Dupuy's wife, two children, his brother and his mother-and father-in-law – tagged him with that turned out to be prophetic.

"They did a little bit of foreshadowing in this whole thing," Dupuy said. "I believe I was around the age of one, and they started calling me 'a little demon.' Ever since then, I was destined for this day. I didn't know what y'all were setting me up for, but I appreciate it."

Dupuy's definition of family quickly extended to his team, which was represented at the introduction by juniors Tia Youngblood and Sami Thomas and sophomores Cheyenne Brown and Gabby Jackson.

On several occasions, Dupuy referenced the team as "my girls," quickly establishing a bond between the new coach and his players, who gave Dupuy rave reviews following their initial meeting with him one week ago.

Northwestern State Director of Athletics Greg Burke alluded to the reputation Dupuy carved as a recruiter during his eight years at Southern Miss. In addition to spending the past three seasons as the associate head coach on Joye Lee-McNelis' staff, Dupuy has been named the top recruiter and top assistant coach in Conference USA by scouting services.

That background was just a part of what made Dupuy, who will be a first-time college head coach, stand out to Burke.

"His coach said she heaped a bunch of stuff on him with the idea he would be a head coach one day," Burke said. "He's done everything. He's done recruiting. (McNelis) says the moms absolutely love him. Xs and Os, she told me that was his strength, among many strengths. He can really X and O."

"Fundraising, you've got to do a little bit of that here. They had a golf tournament (at Southern Miss) and they only had 12 teams in it. There weren't where they wanted to be. (McNelis) told Jordan about it. The next day, they had 24 teams."

Both Burke and Dupuy spoke of the solid foundation Dupuy inherits.

The Lady Demons reached three consecutive national postseason tournaments – the 2014 and 2015 NCAA Tournaments and the 2016 Women's Basketball Invitational – under Dupuy's predecessors, Brooke and Scott Stoehr.

Brooke Stoehr and Dupuy worked together for one season (2008-09) at Southern Miss and developed a strong relationship.

"I don't have to start anything," Dupuy said. "I don't have to redo anything. I don't have to bring in anything. It's all there for us to take and run with. Everyone knows how special the Stoehrs were. Great people,

*Continued on page 13*





Northwestern State University Athletics will honor **Greg Burke** on his 20<sup>th</sup> year as Athletic Director with a celebration beginning at **6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20 in Prather Coliseum.** Tickets are \$50 per person.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [nsudemons.com/burke20](http://nsudemons.com/burke20) or contact Haley Blount, assistant athletic director for marketing at (318) 357-4278 or email [blounth@nsula.edu](mailto:blounth@nsula.edu).

## Unable to attend graduation due to competition commitments, student-athletes get diplomas early



Graduating student-athletes from baseball and track and field teams received their Northwestern State diplomas in a special commencement ceremony on May 1. The athletes were competing on the road on May 6 and could not participate in the university's spring graduation exercises. Taking part in the commencement at the Friedman Student Union were, front row from left, academic counselors Betsy Novhavitza and Kelee Roddy, graduates Keshira McKnight and Christian Willis and Athletics Director Greg Burke. On the back row are NSU President Dr. Jim Henderson, graduates Aaron Williams, Quinton Helaire, Nathan Aultman, Por'sha Thomas and Breann Denson.

**Dupuy**—continued from page 12

I love them to death. I have a great relationship with them. They have laid a tremendous groundwork for me and the staff I bring in to be successful. For me to come in and redo things and start from the ground up, one, it's not necessary and, two, it wouldn't be smart. Everything is there and in place to take this program to the next level."

Dupuy said he will tailor his playing style to the talent on the Northwestern State roster and to that of the five incoming signees.

He also said he will tweak some things, including a possible introduction of a matchup zone he convinced McNelis to implement during his time at Southern Miss.

Dupuy did, however, make it clear he wanted to win in three distinct areas.

"We're going to win in the classroom," Dupuy said. "We're going to win in the community. We're going to win on the court. We cannot prove ourselves on the court until November, so right now is about winning in the community and winning in the classroom."

Speaking directly to "his girls," Dupuy made one thing abundantly clear. He has no designs on stopping the momentum the Lady Demons have built

in the past three seasons.

"We're going to see everything we built in the community and the classroom carry over to the court," Dupuy said. "We're going to continue to hang banners, and we're going to be trying on rings really soon. Get your ring finger ready. That's the plan."

Dupuy returned to his home state after spending more than a decade with both the men's and women's basketball teams at Southern Miss.

Dupuy spent the past eight seasons on the Southern Miss women's staff, serving as associate head coach for the final three seasons.

He helped lead the Golden Eagles to consecutive seasons of at least 25 wins in 2013-14 (27-7) and 2014-15 (25-11). In those seasons, Southern Miss played in the Women's NIT, reaching the Elite Eight of the 2015 event.

In addition to helping the Lady Eagles produce two of the best seasons on the court, Dupuy was instrumental in delivering a pair of recruiting classes that ranked among the best in Conference USA.

The Lady Eagles 2010 class was ranked 42nd nationally and their 2013 class ranked in the top 70 nationally.

Dupuy also helped bring two ESPN Top 100 players to Hattiesburg during his tenure.

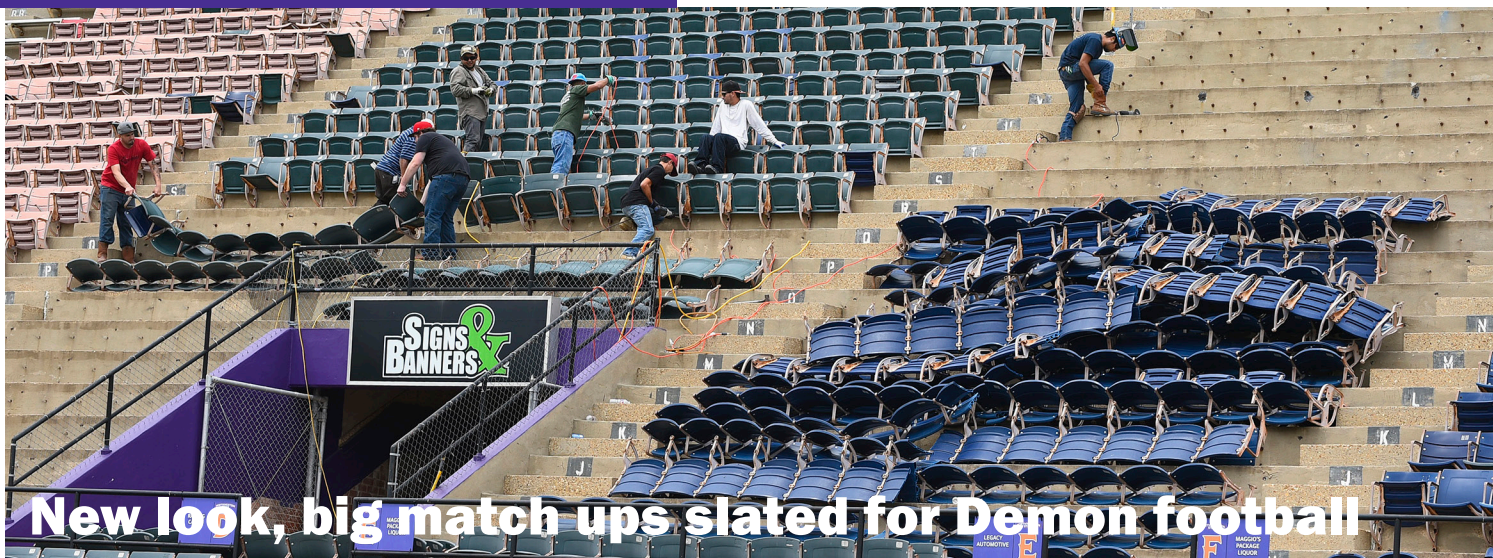
Dupuy helped develop Southern Miss' guards throughout his tenure and was responsible for recruiting and coaching 11 All-Conference USA performers, four members of the Conference USA All-Freshman Team, three Conference USA All-Defensive Team selections and two conference Newcomers of the Year.

Dupuy also was instrumental in developing Jamierra Faulkner, the 34th overall selection in the 2014 WNBA Draft by the Chicago Sky.

After serving as a manager for the Southern Miss men's basketball team as an undergraduate, Dupuy began his coaching career as a graduate assistant with the Golden Eagles while completing work on his master's degree from USM. He also was the director of basketball operation for Southern Miss during the 2003-04 season.

Dupuy, 36, is married to the former Elizabeth Goodson, a Shreveport native, and the couple has two children, Alex, 11, and Madison, 9.





## New look, big match ups slated for Demon football

Northwestern State supporters will be able to enjoy new chairback seats in the redesigned reserved section of Turpin Stadium for five home games, including matchups with 2015 FCS playoff teams McNeese and Sam Houston State, highlighting the Demons' 2016 football schedule.

The Demons kick off the season at Baylor Sept. 3, then begin the home slate and the Southland Conference season a week later with a Thursday, Sept. 8 contest against Incarnate Word.

"The 2016 home schedule will be attractive for our fans, starting with the annual 'White Out' game on a Thursday night kicking off the Southland Conference opponent Incarnate Word," said athletics director Greg Burke. "I am especially enthusiastic about the fact that the Demons will have three home games in a four-week span during

the thick of the conference schedule, which is something which has not happened in quite some time."

Following league games on the road at Central Arkansas and Southeastern Louisiana, NSU gets an open date before hosting NCAA Division II independent Kentucky Wesleyan in a non-conference contest on Oct. 8.

NSU resumes Southland Conference play with a trip to Lamar, celebrates homecoming Oct. 22 by facing old rival McNeese, then hosts another in-state foe a week later as Nicholls comes to Turpin Stadium.

The final home game Nov. 12 against Sam Houston State is sandwiched around visits to Abilene Christian (Nov. 5) and traditional rival Stephen F. Austin (Nov. 19) in the annual Battle for Chief Caddo, the largest trophy in sports, reclaimed by NSU last year.

"I think it's awesome," said head coach Jay Thomas, whose team has momentum after winning four of its last six games in 2015. "It's a schedule that fans, players and coaches will enjoy. We have some really good home games and really like the fact that the two best teams in our conference last year come to Turpin Stadium." Along with the nine Southland Conference contests, Thomas said he liked the opportunity to face one of the country's top programs and hosting a first-time intersectional opponent from Division II.

"It's a well-balanced schedule and we appreciate Mr. Burke's efforts pulling it together," said Thomas. "Baylor may be a top five team. It's a challenge to open the season there but it's excit-

ing and an opportunity to go against some of the best players and coaches in college football. We're happy to get Kentucky Wesleyan on the schedule. They've been competitive against other FCS programs and like us, had success in the second half of the season."

The home crowds at Turpin Stadium will enjoy an enhanced experience in 2016, said Burke. A redesigned west side lower deck featuring new chairback seats and other fan-friendly improvements was made possible by a \$500,000 gift by former Demon player Bryant Lewis and his wife, Heloise, announced late last year.

"In addition to the high level of play on the field, plans continue to progress towards making an already outstanding venue – Turpin Stadium – even better for loyal Demon fans. The new west side reserved seating will be a plus in terms of aesthetics and fan experience," he said. "The 'Purple Pandemonium' ticket drive to sell every one of the new, modernized chair back seats will be a huge plus for home game atmosphere. Other enhancements are in the works, as well."

The Demons are surging after their finish to the 2015 season, coupled with an impressive 2016 recruiting class including nine midyear transfers already on campus.

NSU returns 56 letterwinners, 28 on defense and 26 offensively, including nine starters on defense and six more offensively, from 2015, when the Demons rallied from an 0-5 start to finish 4-7 and tie for fifth in the 11-team Southland Conference standings.

### Northwestern State Demons 2016 Schedule

Sept. 3	at Baylor, TBA
Sept. 8	Incarnate Word*, 6 p.m.
Sept. 17	at Central Arkansas*, TBA
Sept. 24	at Southeastern Louisiana*, TBA
Oct. 1	Open
Oct. 8	Kentucky Wesleyan, 6 p.m.
Oct. 15	at Lamar, 6 p.m.
Oct. 22	McNeese*, 6 p.m. (Homecoming)
Oct. 29	Nicholls*, 6 p.m.
Nov. 5	at Abilene Christian*, TBA
Nov. 12	Sam Houston State*, 6 p.m.
Nov. 19	at Stephen F. Austin*, 3 p.m.

\*Southland Conference games  
All times tentative/check NSUDemons.com for latest info



# 2016 Victory Tour



Many • Julian Foy Motors • 7.14

Winnfield • Pine Ridge Country Club • 7.18

Baton Rouge • Superior Grill • 7.20

New Orleans • Cajun Cannon • 7.21

Lafayette • Ruffino's on the River • 7.22

Alexandria • Spirit's • 7.25

Leesville • Mexico Lindo • 7.27

Shreveport • Superior's Steakhouse • 7.28

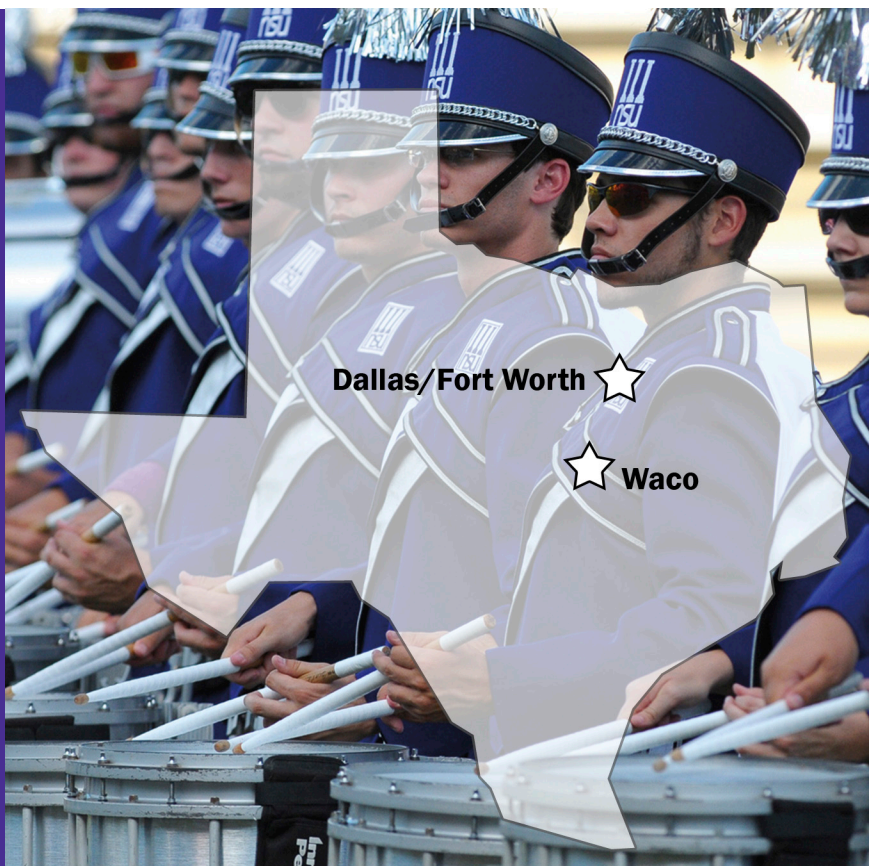
Coushatta • Murray Home • 7.29

For more info, call (318) 357-4278, or visit [NSUDemons.com](http://NSUDemons.com)

## SON will take Sept. 2 show on the road

### The Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band

will make an appearance in Waco, Texas, as the Demons take on the Baylor Bears on Sept. 2 in a nationally televised game. The trip is being made possible through support from Lenn and Danny Prince. The band will travel to the Dallas/Fort Worth area on Thursday to perform at half-time of a high school football game and will host an open rehearsal Friday morning at a local high school. "The Spirit of Northwestern is so appreciative of this wonderful gift from the Prince family," said Director of Bands Dr. Jeff Mathews. "It's a recruiting opportunity we have not had in over 10 years. Without the gift from the Prince family, it would never have happened. We are so grateful."





# Guess Who



CORRECTION: The NSU Kappa Sigma chapter was incorrectly listed as the Sigma Nu chapter. It is actually the Theta Mu chapter. Our apologies for the error.

The Current Sauce of 1956-57 was different from previous years as the staff came up with many firsts for the paper, including printing bi-weekly summer editions, sending the paper to ROTC seniors encamped at Fort Hood and hitting newsstands with complete coverage of the Potpourri assembly 10 minutes before the assembly was over. At the helm was an editor who went on to enjoy a long career as one of the most celebrated sportswriters in Louisiana. Can you name him? The first five readers to guess correctly will receive a prize from the Alumni Association.

If you know the answer, email Leah Jackson at [jacksonl@nsula.edu](mailto:jacksonl@nsula.edu).



Pictured in the Spring Edition of Guess Who were officers in Kappa Sigma Fraternity from 1966. They were, top row from left, Dan Walsh, David Faraldo and Gary Foster. On the bottom row were John Sills, John Landrum and R.J. Ardoin.

Readers who guessed correctly were:

Scottie Maxwell (1969) Baton Rouge  
David Lovell (1968) Shreveport  
Ann Curtis Speir (1966) Pineville  
Frances Council (1965) Crawfordville, Florida  
R.J. Ardoin (1966) Humble, Texas  
Linda Passmore Shackelford (1970), Yellville, Arkansas

## Planning to visit Natchitoches?

If you are planning a visit to campus, be sure to visit **natchitoches.com** to help plan your itinerary.

There are always activities, events, exhibits and attractions that appeal to visitors that take place year-round in Natchitoches and Cane River Country.

**Gordano**—continued from page 11

"McKenzi is a fighter," said Dr. Kimberly McAlister, head of the Department of Teaching, Leadership and Counseling in NSU's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development. "Her passion and enthusiasm to teach will positively impact the lives of children for years to come. McKenzie's dedication and perseverance embodies the spirit of the scholarship as set forth by the Dill Family."

The Dill family established the scholarship in honor of three sisters and a niece who attended Louisiana Normal, as NSU was known until 1944, and became teachers. Three generations of the Dill family, whose roots are in Ascension Parish, contributed to create the scholarship that is intended for a student who demonstrates character in overcoming hardships and has a strong desire to become an educator. The award is a one-time gift to the selected student, who must have a 2.6 or better grade point average when nominated for the award.



# Looking Back



Greg Burke returned to NSU in the Fall of 1996 as the new athletic director, replacing Tynes Hildebrand, who held the position since 1982. From 1986-1992- Burke served as the university's first athletic fund raiser, developing Northwestern State's Athletic Association from scratch into a booster group of nearly 1,000 people. In 1989 Burke initiated the biennial NSU Scholarship Auction to generate scholarship funds for student-athletes as well as the Joe Delaney Memorial Golf Tournament. He was then hired away to served as director of athletic development at the University of Akron from 1992 until his return. He was introduced as the new athletic director on Aug. 8, 1996. As he settled into the position, Burke outlined several goals he wanted to accomplish during his tenure. First and foremost was to see a high graduation rate among all student-athletes and build a greater awareness of NSU's athletic teams as a means of marketing the university.



## Download the NSUColumns app to view Alumni Columns online

You can now access an interactive digital version of Alumni Columns by downloading a free app for your tablet, smart phone or PC/Mac web and mobile browser that delivers the magazine's content in a socially sharable multi-platform format.

The NSUColumns app is available free for iOS and Android users and allows readers to access the latest issues of Alumni Columns, along with videos, photo albums and other interactive features.



## In Memory

- 1933 - Pinkye Simpson Mitchell, March 11, 2016, Natchitoches
- 1951 - John McConathy, April 19, 2016, Bossier City
- 1954 - Dorothy Scruggs Benefield
- 1954 - Mary Opal Ammons, June 18, 2015, Baton Rouge
- 1955 - Barbara M. Montgomery Arceneaux, July 2015, Sulphur
- 1957 - Clois W. Witt, Thomson, Aug. 18, 2015, Georgia
- 1955 - Jerry Carolyn Wilson Smith, Jan. 1, 2014, Jackson, Tennessee
- 1956 - Glyndell Ebarbe, April 15, 2015, Vinton
- 1957 - Jerry Byrd, April 21, 2016, Shreveport
- 1959 - Diamantis Cassis, December 2015, Houston
- 1959 - Jena Reynaud Barnett, Nov. 1, 2013, Pineville
- 1959 - Mary Ann King, April 28, 2016, Natchitoches
- 1959 - L.L. "Loopy" Langston, May 3, 2016, Franklin
- 1961 - Michael K. Lewis, May 19, 2015, Shreveport
- 1965 - Clara Barrett Honeycutt
- 1966 - Caroline Ann Vaughan, Feb. 20, 2016, Largo, Florida
- 1966 - Kenneth Babin, Sept. 24, 2015, Lafayette
- 1967 - Frances Breedlove, April 8, 2016, Shreveport
- 1970 - William Pelt, April 18, 2016, Rosepine
- 1971 - George Mallett, March 8, 2016, Natchitoches
- 1973 - William "Bill" Bailey Carter, May 12, 2016, Beaufort, South Carolina
- 1977 - Beverly Kees Lewis Reusch, Jan. 28, 2016, Prairieville
- 1990 - Penney Patterson Johnson, April 9, 2016, Shreveport
- 2011 - Joshua Michael Clarkson, April 25, 2016, New Orleans
- 2011 - Thomas Bradford Flynn, May 15, 2016, Natchitoches
- Linda G. Williams, April 11, 2016, Pineville
- F.B. Ward, April 23, 2016, Natchitoches
- Marguerite W. Wright, April 24, 2016, Many





Northwestern State University honored 1966 graduate who collected their second diplomas during Spring Commencement. Those celebrating their Golden Jubilee were, front row from left, Janet Mott Moriarty, Carolyn Thomas, Sandy Walker Fields, Camille Bruce, Bernie Kalinsky, Charles H. Fink, Sandra Goldstein Crowder, Carol Rigdon Allison, Jimmie Dawn Jeansonne and Paul D. Jeansonne. On the second row are Marilyn Vanhoof Joyner, Toni Hebert Farr, Priscilla Dorgan LeBleu, Clarice Hayden, Barbara Van Vekhoven Dickson, Benny Dobson, Bill Finical, Caroline Bingham Sanders. On the third row Jack O'Neill, Wilder Lane Book, John Gongre, Glenda Siepman, Mary Ann Adams, Louise Lawrence McFadden, Peter Seymour, Patty Graham Walker and Calbert Marcantel. On the fourth row are Ann Wilson Shaw, Carolyn Paul Bramlett, Coletta Stewart, Dan Walsh, R. J. Ardoin and Inetha Daniels Davis. On the fifth row are Gerald Long, Lyn Hargrave, Trigger Allen, Glenda Thompson Austin, Roy Corley, Roy Patrick Bell, Joseph Clyde Crooks and Ray Burnham. On the back row are Glen Johnson, Kenneth Knotts, Don Heine, Floyd LeBleu, Jeanette McDonald, Ed Huey and Jerry Anderson.